

**REMARKS/ARGUMENT****Regarding the Claims in General:**

Claims 2-4, 6, 8-9, and 21-24 are now pending. Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice and combined as new claim 21, and claims 7 and 10 have been canceled and combined with original claim 1 as new claim 22. Claims 13-20, which were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner, have been canceled without prejudice to presentation in a divisional application.

In addition, claims 2-4, 6, 8-9, and 11-12 have been amended to depend from either claim 21 or claim 22.

New claims 24 and 25 have been added to provide applicants with additional protection to which they appear to be entitled in light of the known prior art.

**Regarding The Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 5, 6, 10, and 11 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of their respective parent claims. New claims 21 and 22 have been presented in compliance with the Examiner's suggestion. However, the Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the fact that original claim 5 was directly dependent on claim 4, but claim 4 was rejected, and the Examiner's statement of the reason for allowance did not mention the subject matter of claim 4. Since claim 5 did not require the features of claim 4 for patentability, new claim 21 combines only the features of original claims 1 and 5, and claim 4 has been made dependent on new claim 21.

**Regarding the Prior Art Rejections:**

The prior art rejections in the outstanding Office Action are believed to have been fully overcome by the presentation of new independent claims 21 and 22, the cancellation of claim 1, and the amendment of the dependency of claims 2-4, 6, 8-9, and 11-12. All of these claims should therefore now be allowable. Claims 23 and 24 are dependent on allowable claim 21, and should be allowable as well.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. However, if there are any unresolved issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by Facsimile to (571) 273-8300 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

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Name of applicant, assignee or  
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Signature

December 7, 2005

Date of Signature

LAH:lac

Respectfully submitted,

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